AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 20-24 of page 15 with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 1C illustrates a block diagram of plan-view template generator 128 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Plan-view template generator 128 comprises pattern extractor 170 and template processor [[180]]177. It should be appreciated that plan-view template generator 128 may be implemented within a computer system.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 11-26 of page 17 with the following amended paragraph.

With reference to Figure 1C, raw plan-view templates 175 are modified by template processor [[180]]177 to produce plan-view templates 125. It should be appreciated that template processor [[180]]177 is optional, and is not required for performing plan-view template generation 128. Template processor [[180]]177 may process raw plan-view templates 175 to produce new data representations embodied by plan-view templates 125. This processing may be include a combination of one or more of many types of data normalization and transformation, including but not limited to scaling in the spatial dimensions of the raw plan-view template, rotating the raw plan-view template image data, removal of small isolated regions of non-zero raw plan-view template data, smoothing of the raw plan-view template data, convolution of the raw plan-view template data with an image kernel, interpolation of the raw plan-view template data across small regions of zero or unreliable data, and representation of the raw plan-view template data in terms of contours, spatial moments, basis functions or vectors, or other primitives.

Please replace the paragraph spanning page 17, line 28 – page 18, line 12 with the following amended paragraph.

In some embodiments, template processor [[180]]177 applies height normalization to raw plan-view templates 175 containing height-related statistics. The height-related statistics may be of several types, including but not limited to a value representative of the height of one or more of the highest points in each bin, a value